

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 00862 070618Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /050 W
----- 063382

O 070544Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5010

CINCPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0862

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, PINT, MARR

SUBJECT: WHITLAM DEFEATS ATTEMPT BY ALP LEFT WING TO CHANGE
THE PARTY'S PLATFORM ON BASES.

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM BEAT BACK A LEFT-WING
EFFORT TO CHANGE THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (ALP) PLATFORM
ON BASES. IN THE PROCESS HE MADE A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT
HE WOULD NOT GIVE NOTICE OF AUSTRALIA'S INTENTION TO TERMI-
NATE THE PINE GAB AGREEMENT THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. WHITLAM REACTED VIGOROUSLY AT THE ALP'S BIENNIAL CONFER-
ENCE IN TERRIGAL WHEN AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE BY TERRY HIGGINS,
THE ACT'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE CONFERENCE, TO CHANGE THE
ALP PLATFORM ON BASES. THE PRESENT PLATFORM READS. QTE.
LABOR IS OPPOSED TO THE EXISTENCE OF FOREIGN-OWNED, CONTROLLED
OR OPERATED BASES IN AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY, ESPECIALLY IF SUCH
BASES INVOLVE A DEROGATION FROM AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGNTY. END QTE.
HIGGINS PROPOSED TO CHANGE THE WORDS QTE. A DEROGATION END QTE.
TO QTE. ANY DEROGATION END QTE.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER OPPOSED THIS CHANGE AND SAID THAT THE
ALP PLATFORM ON BASES AS WRITTEN HAD BEEN FULFILLED. HE
REVIEWED THE STATUS OF EXISTING FACILITIES NOTHING THE CHANGES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 00862 070618Z

IN THE NORTHWEST CAPE AGREEMENT, THE TRANSFER OF AM-

BERLY TO THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, AND THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE SEISMIC STATION AT ALICE SPRINGS TO THE GOA. IN REFERRING TO PINE GAP AND WOOMERA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE, THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND OTHERS WITH A NEED TO KNOW ARE FULLY INFORMED ON WHAT IS GOING ON AND THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ACCESS TO BOTH FACILITIES. HE SAID, QTE. YOU MUST TRUST US. END QTE. HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THESE INSTALLATIONS AS WELL AS NORTHWEST CAPE ARE JOINTLY MANAGED AND THAT INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE INSTALLATIONS WAS AVAILABLE TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED QTE. AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGNTY IS NOT DISADVANTAGED BY PINE GAP AND WOOMERA. END QTE. MOST OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT WAS DRAFTED BY DFA. THE DFA DRAFT WAS CLEARED INFORMALLY WITH THE EMBASSY.

4. IN THE SUBSEQUENT DEBATE THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED IF HE WOULD GIVE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOTICE OF AUSTRALIA'S INTENTION TO TERMINATE THE PINE GAB AGREEMENT THIS YEAR. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID QTE. I WOULD GIVE NO SUCH NOTICE. THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR DOING SO AND I HAVE NO MANDATE FROM THE PARTY TO DO SO. END QTE.

5. HIGGINS DEFENDED HIS PROPOSAL BY ARGUING THAT THERE WAS NO JOINT OPERATIONAL CONTROL AT NORTHWEST CAPE, THAT PINE GAB WAS A SURVEILLANCE STATION SPYING ON THE SOVIET UNION, THAT NORTHWEST CAPE WAS A COMMAND STATION AND THAT THE PROPOSED OMEGA STATION WAS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO ASSIST U.S. MISSILES AND ATTACK SUBMARINES. WARMING TO HIS SUBJECT, HE STATED THAT THESE FACILITIES WERE PART OF THE U.S. DEFENSE SYSTEM AND PUT AUSTRALIA IN THE FIRING LINE FOR AN EXEMPLARY STRIKE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IT IS A DEROGATION OF AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGNTY IF A MILITARY BASE CAN INVOLVE AUSTRALIA IN HOSTILITIES WITHOUT AUSTRALIAN CONSENT. THE CONFERENCE VOTED TO TABLE HIGGINS' MOTION.

6. COMMENT: WHITLAM'S FORTHRIGHT DEFENSE OF U.S. JOINT FACILITIES WAS THE CLEAREST PUBLIC STATEMENT HE HAS YET MADE. IT WAS EFFECTIVE AND MOST WELCOME.
HARROP

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER00862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750045-0215
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750264/aaaacfah.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITLAM DEFEATS ATTEMPT BY ALP LEFT WING TO CHANGE THE PARTY'S PLATFORM ON BASES.
TAGS: PINT, MARR, AS, US, ALP
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006